

Blockades Key Messages – February 15, 2022

- Good afternoon everyone.
- It has been a productive and successful 24 hours on a number of fronts.
- And of course there has been a significant development within the OPS. I will return to the Ottawa situation in a moment.
- We are seeing progress across the country.
- Our members on the ground and behind the scenes have been working non-stop to do everything possible to bring about peaceful resolution in the first instance and, when necessary, through enforcement.
- This will not change.

Ottawa

- The truck count has reduced – it's now sitting at **357** trucks versus the 505 from yesterday in the downtown core after some convoy participants left following the agreement with the Mayor to move trucks out of residential areas.
- Some protesters are moving from Ottawa's residential streets, while others continue to stay put.
- Late this morning, there was a large line of trucks idling in front of the National War Museum, but no incidents were reported.
- There is no indication of any new planned convoys arriving in Ottawa today, but the partners will continue to have additional support in the downtown core to respond if necessary.
- We continue to protect all designated protectees, and have securely escorted any parliamentarians wanting support to attend/depart the Hill.

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- **I would assume everyone is very anxious to understand what happens following the Chief's resignation. First, I do not know who will replace him. I can tell you that the new OPS Chief – interim or permanent – will retain the leadership of the response to the situation in Ottawa.**
- It is unfortunate that it had to come to this, but I believe the Chief's resignation today opens the doors for a true unified command to address the ongoing situation in our nation's capital via the Integrated Command Centre.
- We are moving forward to action – focussed on engagement and negotiation in the first instance, and enforcement when and if necessary.

If pressed

- The OPS remains the police force of jurisdiction and lead, with the RCMP and OPP forming part of the Integrated Command structure that has been put in place.
- The OPS remains in command and is leading the efforts in Ottawa.
 - As per section 20 of the Act, nothing in a declaration of a public order emergency or in any order or regulation made would cause the control or direction of a provincial or municipal government over a police force to be removed.
- There is no authority under the Act for a change of command. That decision rests entirely with the provincial government to make - pursuant to the Ontario Police Services Act (s. 9 and s.55).

If asked

- Regarding the Intelligence landscape, I am aware of convoy protesters distributing flyers with anti-policing sentiment today, and open source chatter against Trudeau's declaration of the Emergency Act yesterday.
- The RCMP, the Combined Intelligence Group, and other intelligence agencies are monitoring the narratives and threats very closely. Anything actionable is fed to the Command centre, who coordinates if and when anything needs to be deployed specifically following an intelligence tip.

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Windsor

- I'm pleased to report that in Windsor, there is currently no protest situation blocking traffic to the Ambassador Bridge.
- Normal operations have resumed. As noted yesterday, the successful joint police operations over the weekend resulted in a total of 32 arrests, and 37 vehicles towed.
- Law enforcement presence and patrols will remain high in the region for the foreseeable future.
 - 50 members deployed to Windsor to help ensure the roadways around the bridge remain clear.

Coutts

- The port of entry is now re-opened.
- Protestors at the main Coutts site are moving their tractors away from the intersection and those they cannot drive away are being parked in a field away from the area.
- It is anticipated that some protestors may move to an alternate protest site that was set up by the AB Minister of Transport.
- The investigation into the arrested individuals is ongoing with a number of charges anticipated.

Emerson

- Following a meeting with RCMP personnel, protestors and the protestors have agreed to leave. They intend to do a slow roll departure from the site by noon tomorrow, after they speak to media.
- The protestors are organizing themselves today and cleaning up the site, including the removal of some pieces of equipment and structures from the blockade – this is occurring in the midst of a snow storm.
- If the departure plan is not adhered to, the RCMP in Manitoba is ready to being enforcement.

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British Columbia

- The Pacific Highway port of entry is open. Vehicles and pedestrians are now able to access the border crossing.
- Last night, police engaged protestors and 12 people were arrested, bringing the total number of arrests to 16 since February 13th.
- Investigations are also underway into possible illegal activity that may have occurred on the 12th.
- Police presence in the area will remain in the days ahead as will a continuous assessment of the situation.

Emergencies Act Invocation

- I have clearly communicated my expectations to my leadership team across the country that we will exploit the measures to their fullest. This is in addition to continuing to using every power and tool already at their disposal.
- We are working through two outstanding questions as it related to the designation of protected sites and what additional needs there may be from an enforcement perspective AND the delegation of power to compel essential services and the related compensation.
- On protected sites, I know the focus is clearly on Ottawa.

- Solicitor-Client Priv.

- That said, the folks on the ground are taking a more detailed look tied to their operational enforcement plan to determine if and where the power may be helpful for enforcement AND deterrence.

- On delegation of the power to compel, the key issues is related to delegation outside the RCMP and to how to operationalize compensation measures. And on the compensation-elements, there are a number of

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outstanding questions that folks are working on with DoJ, PS, Treasury Board and PSPC.

- Within the RCMP, I can easily delegate similar to what is already done, and work is underway to ensure operational guidance is in place.
- Outside of the RCMP there needs to be consideration as to how it will be delegated to other police.

If asked about resource mobilization

- In addition, our focus in the first instance will be mobilizing all available RCMP Federal Policing resources from across the country.
- If we have to go beyond Federal resources, into contract divisions, there are some contractual considerations including the percentage of resources that the RCMP can access.
- And also noting that some of our divisions are already stretched, particularly BC, AB and MB, given their other contractual responsibilities and managing protest activities in a number of locations.
- For this reason, it will be necessary to continue to work with and leverage the police of jurisdiction and the provincial police.

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